

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/828,275
Amendment dated September 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims further define what the applicants regard as their invention. Full support for the amendments can be found throughout the present application, including the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no questions of new matter should arise and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. To assist the Examiner, claim 32 and claim 33 have been made independent and include the language of claim 1 and claim 7, respectively. Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 2-6 have been made dependent on method claim 32. Claims 8-15 have been made dependent on method claim 33. Further, claims 16-21 have been made dependent on method claim 32. Claims 22, 23, 27, and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 24-26 and 28-30 have been made dependent, indirectly or directly, on new independent claims 34-36. New independent claims 34-36 and 49 recite the subject matter of claims 12-15, respectively, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Furthermore, new claims 37-48 and 50-59 are also dependent, directly or indirectly, on new claims 34-36 and 49 and include embodiments found in originally filed claims 16-18.

Thus, based on the amendment, claims 2-6, 8-21, 24-26, 28-30, and 32-59 are pending.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Railsback (U.S. Patent No. 4,545,927), van Konynenburg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,775,778), and Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,174,924). The Examiner asserts that each of the cited references discloses polymer

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compositions and articles produced therefrom, containing carbon black. The Examiner further asserts that the carbon black of the references, either explicitly or implicitly through their ASTM designator, possesses all the physical properties of the claimed invention. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to the rejection, as indicated above, the subject matter remaining is subject matter that the Examiner has objected to which would be allowable if re-written in independent form. This has been done, and accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Branam, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,837). According to the Examiner, Branam Jr. et al. shows polymeric compositions and articles containing carbon blacks. The Examiner also asserts that the product of Branam Jr. et al. includes carbon blacks which either explicitly or implicitly possess all of the physical properties of the claimed invention. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to this rejection, as indicated above, all subject matter pending relates to subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone should there be any remaining questions as to the patentability of the pending claims.

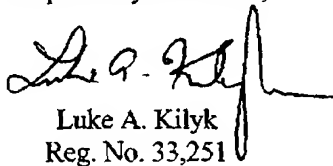
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicants respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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